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MICHIGAN LABOR MARKET REVIEW

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JOB SERVICE
Michigan Employment Security Commission

State Unemployment Rate Slips Downward

The jobless rate in Michigan dipped slightly as the statewide unemployment rate declined to 12.6 percent in February. The decrease in joblessness was primarily the result of an improving economy and a substantial increase in employment. Total employment in February climbed by 93,000 to 3,709,000 as job gains were centered in manufacturing and government. The number of unemployed individuals in the state rose by 5,000 to reach 535,000. Subsequently, the gains in both employment and unemployment drove the civilian labor force up by 99,000 to finish the month at 4,245,000. Compard with a year ago, employment in the state has jumped by 162,000 or 4.6 percent, while the size of the labor force has declined by 3,000. In February 1983, the total number of state residents out of work amounted to 701,000, representing a jobless rate of 16.5 percent.

Expanded Job Activity Throughout State

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in Michigan increased as total industry jobs climbed to 3,240,500 in February. Approximately 18,700 positions were added as job gains in manufacturing and government offset seasonal losses in nonmanufacturing. Public sector employment rose by 11,600 to 582,700 as the majority of increased job activity was the result of the resumption of the school year at educational facilities. Total manufacturing employment at 932,400 inched upward by 9,200, primarily as a result of gains in automotive related industries. Private nonmanufacturing edged downward by 2,100 as service and wholesale trade advances partially offset seasonal losses in the retail trade division. Total industry employment in Michigan has jumped by 126,900 or 4.1 percent since February 1983. Approximately 88,500 manufacturing jobs have been added throughout the year, with nonmanufacturing accounting for gains of 41,800.

Civilian Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Estimates

February, 1984 (Preliminary)

Area	Civilian Labor Force	Total Employment	Unemployment Number	Unemployment Rate
Michigan	4,245,000	3,709,000	535,000	12.6%
Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti	150,100	137,700	12,400	8.3
Battle Creek SMSA	79,000	68,200	10,800	13.7
Bay City-SMSA	52,100	43,400	8,700	16.7
Benton Harbor-SMSA	70,200	60,000	10,200	14.5
Detroit	1,941,900	1,701,300	240,600	12.4
Flint-SMSA	219,200	190,700	28,500	13.0
Grand Rapids SMSA	330,100	297,100	33,000	10.0
Jackson-SMSA	63,500	54,700	8,800	13.9
Kalamazoo-Portage SMSA	138,400	124,400	14,000	10.1
Lansing-East Lansing-SMSA	246,600	225,700	20,900	8.5
Muskegon-Norton Shores-Muskegon Heights SMSA	74,900	64,100	10,800	14.4
Saginaw-SMSA	96,700	85,100	11,600	12.0
Upper Peninsula LMA	141,400	114,000	27,400	19.4

Civilian Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Estimates

State of Michigan

Item	Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984	Dec. 1983	Feb. 1983
PLACE OF RESIDENCE				
Civilian Labor Force	4,245.0	4,146.0	4,215.5	4,248.2
Employment	3,709.0	3,616.0	3,714.1	3,547.2
Unemployment	535.0	530.0	501.4	701.0
Rate	12.6%	12.8%	11.9%	16.5%
PLACE OF WORK				
Wage and Salary Employment	3,240.5	3,221.8	3,273.8	3,113.6
Manufacturing	932.4	923.2	932.3	843.9
Durables	735.0	725.6	735.0	657.1
Lumber & Wood Products	11.0	11.1	11.1	9.7
Furniture & Fixtures	22.8	22.9	23.3	20.5
Metals	165.7	164.9	164.8	146.4
Primary Metals	53.8	53.5	53.4	48.0
Fabricated Metals	111.9	111.4	111.4	98.4
Nonelectrical Machinery	121.5	120.1	121.9	116.6
Electrical Machinery	31.9	31.5	28.5	29.8
Transportation Equipment	345.8	339.2	348.6	301.2
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	327.0	320.7	330.1	284.3
Other Transportation Equip.	18.8	18.5	18.5	16.9
Other Durables	36.3	35.9	36.8	32.9
Nondurables	194.3	197.6	197.3	186.8
Food & Kindred Products	41.8	45.3	45.6	42.5
Textiles & Apparel	20.3	20.5	20.7	17.4
Paper & Allied Products	20.6	20.4	20.5	20.0
Printing & Publishing	33.6	33.3	33.4	32.6
Chemicals & Petroleum	41.8	42.4	42.3	43.1
Other Nondurables	36.2	35.7	34.8	31.2
Nonmanufacturing	1,725.4	1,727.5	1,767.3	1,683.6
Construction	79.4	79.1	86.0	71.9
Trans., Commun., & Utilities	138.2	138.0	137.7	136.7
Wholesale Trade	154.8	152.7	152.5	146.3
Retail Trade	531.6	540.6	567.4	522.0
Finance, Real Estate & Ins.	153.2	152.9	152.1	149.8
Services	659.8	655.8	663.2	648.8
Mining	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.1
Government	582.7	571.1	574.2	586.1
Federal	54.9	54.8	55.5	55.2
State	147.5	144.6	139.4	146.0
Local	380.3	371.7	379.3	384.9
Workers Involved in Labor Disputes	0.5	0.4	0.1	1.4

* Indicates a labor-management dispute in the industry.

Notes: Data expressed in thousands. Current month data are preliminary.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE data are based on the monthly Current Population Survey of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics — 1983 Benchmark.

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT is based on a monthly sample of employing establishments as part of the co-operative federal-state Current Employment Statistics program — March 1983 Benchmark.

Claims Activity

The number of individuals collecting regular unemployment benefits in Michigan declined for the first time in four months. The regular benefit claims load averaged 149,525 per week in February, approximately 2,775 or two percent lower than the month ago total. In February 1983, the number of claimants drawing benefits under the regular program averaged 259,275.

During the month of February, the number of persons collecting benefits under the Federal Supplemental Compensation (FSC) program inched dov nward to 30,175, a decrease of 1,950 or six percent. Total individuals collecting FSC benefits one year ago, amounted to 107,975. The Extended Benefit (EB) program ended on May 21, 1983, thereby disqualifying claimants from collecting benefits under that program.

Weekly Claims for Unemployment Insurance

Week Ending	Regular Program Total	Regular Program Initial	Regular Program Cont'd	Federal Supplemental Compensation Total	Federal Supplemental Compensation Initial	Federal Supplemental Compensation Cont'd
February 4, 1984	153,800	19,100	134,700	30,400	3,100	27,300
February 11, 1984	149,900	16,600	133,300	30,600	3,200	27,400
February 18, 1984	147,800	14,900	132,900	30,000	3,400	26,600
February 25, 1984	146,600	17,000	129,600	29,700	3,300	26,400

Detroit Area Prices Jump

The cost of living in the Detroit metropolitan area increased as the Consumer Price Index totaled 303.1 points in February. The rise in Detroit area prices was primarily the result of soaring food prices caused mostly by unusually harsh weather conditions. Prices in the area rose by 3.7 percent since February 1983 when the Consumer Price Index stood at 292.3.

At the national level, consumer prices climbed at a slightly slower rate as the cost of living index climbed by 1.4 points to 306.6. The national increases reflected Detroit area trends as higher food costs were the main reason for the rise in prices. Over the past year, national consumer prices jumped by 13.4 points. In February 1983, the U.S. Consumer Price Index stood at 293.2.

Hours and Earnings

The average workweek of Michigan's production workers in manufacturing industries inched downward from 43.9 hours in January to 43.4 hours in February. The decline occurred primarily as a result of shorter hours worked by individuals in the automotive industry. During the month, average hourly earnings fell by seven cents to $11.99, while average weekly earnings dropped by $9.07 to total $520.38. In February 1983, earnings averaged $11.41 an hour or $472.71 per week for a 41.4 hour workweek.

Industry	Average Hourly Earnings a/ Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983	Average Weekly Hours a/ Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983	Average Weekly Earnings a/ Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983
TOTAL MANUFACTURING	**$11.99**	**$12.06**	**$11.41**	**43.4**	**43.9**	**41.4**	**$520.38**	**$529.45**	**$472.71**
DURABLE GOODS	12.47	12.55	11.87	43.9	44.4	41.6	547.49	557.06	493.40
Primary Metal Products	12.28	12.32	12.54	42.3	42.5	40.7	519.01	523.60	510.57
Fabricated Metal Products	11.79	11.88	10.97	44.1	44.0	40.7	519.76	522.20	446.78
Nonelectrical Machinery	11.95	11.96	11.47	43.2	43.3	40.6	516.54	517.97	465.69
Electrical Machinery	10.14	10.02	10.03	40.6	41.4	40.5	411.90	414.29	405.79
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	13.94	14.06	13.18	45.4	46.3	42.8	632.32	650.84	564.13
NONDURABLE GOODS	10.02	10.11	9.70	41.5	42.1	40.9	416.17	425.82	396.97
Contract Construction	14.42	14.60	14.97	35.5	35.3	35.6	512.45	515.60	532.24
Department Stores	6.28	6.20	6.49	29.1	29.6	26.5	182.91	183.36	171.98

a/ *Average weekly and hourly earnings are computed from aggregates of individual establishment reports utilizing the total amount paid to production workers and total production hours. Average weekly and hourly earnings differ from weekly and hourly rates in that they are affected by overtime wage rates, part-time earnings, the length of the workweek, etc.*

Note: *Current month data are preliminary.*

Labor Surplus Areas Eligible for Federal Procurement Preference From October 1, 1983 through September 30, 1984

Eligible Labor Surplus Areas	Political Jurisdiction(s) Included
Alcona County	Alcona County
Alger County	Alger County
Allegan County	Allegan County
Alpena County	Alpena County
Antrim County	Antrim County
Arenac County	Arenac County
Baraga County	Baraga County
Barry County	Barry County
Battle Creek City	Battle Creek City in Calhoun County
Bay County	Bay County
Benzie County	Benzie County
Berrien County	Berrien County
Branch County	Branch County
Calhoun County, Balance of	Calhoun County, less Battle Creek City
Cass County	Cass County
Charlevoix County	Charlevoix County
Cheboygan County	Cheboygan County
Chippewa County	Chippewa County
Clare County	Clare County
Clinton County	Clinton County
Clinton Township	Clinton Township in Macomb County
Crawford County	Crawford County
Dearborn Heights City	Dearborn Heights City in Wayne County
Delta County	Delta County
Detroit City	Detroit City in Wayne County
Dickinson County	Dickinson County
Eaton County, Balance of	Eaton County less Lansing City
Emmet County	Emmet County
Farmington Hills City	Farmington Hills in Oakland County
Flint City	Flint City in Genesee County
Genessee County, Balance of	Genesee County less Flint City
Gladwin County	Gladwin County
Gogebic County	Gogebic County
Grand Rapids City	Grand Rapids City in Kent County
Grand Traverse County	Grand Traverse County
Gratiot County	Gratiot County
Hillsdale County	Hillsdale County
Houghton County	Houghton County
Huron County	Huron County
Ionia County	Ionia County
Iosco County	Iosco County
Iron County	Iron County
Jackson County	Jackson County
Kalamazoo City	Kalamazoo City in Kalamazoo County
Kalkaska County	Kalkaska County
Keweenaw County	Keweenaw County
Lake County	Lake County
Lansing City	Lansing City in Ingham and Eaton Counties
Lapeer County	Lapeer County
Leelanau County	Leelanau County
Lenawee County	Lenawee County
Livingston County	Livingston County
Luce County	Luce County
Mackinac County	Mackinac County
Macomb County, Balance of	Macomb County less Clinton Township, Roseville City, St. Clair Shores City, Sterling Heights City, Warren City
Manistee County	Manistee County
Marquette County	Marquette County
Mason County	Mason County
Mecosta County	Mecosta County
Menominee County	Menominee County
Midland County	Midland County
Missaukee County	Missaukee County
Monroe County	Monroe County
Montcalm County	Montcalm County
Montmorency County	Montmorency County
Muskegon County	Muskegon County
Newaygo County	Newaygo County
Oakland County, Balance of	Oakland County less Farmington Hills City Pontiac City, Royal Oak City, Southfield City, Troy City, Waterford Township
Oceana County	Oceana County
Ogemaw County	Ogemaw County
Ontonagon County	Ontonagon County
Osceola County	Osceola County
Oscoda County	Oscoda County
Otsego County	Otsego County
Pontiac City	Pontiac City in Oakland County
Presque Isle County	Presque Isle County
Roscommon County	Roscommon County
Roseville City	Roseville City in Macomb County
Royal Oak City	Royal Oak City in Oakland County
Saginaw City	Saginaw City in Saginaw County
Saginaw County, Balance of	Saginaw County less Saginaw City
St. Clair County	St. Clair County
St. Clair Shores City	St. Clair Shores City in Macomb County
St. Joseph County	St. Joseph County
Sanilac County	Sanilac County
Schoolcraft County	Schoolcraft County
Shiawassee County	Shiawassee County
Southfield City	Southfield City in Oakland County
Sterling Heights City	Sterling Heights City in Macomb County
Taylor City	Taylor City in Wayne County
Tuscola County	Tuscola County
Van Buren County	Van Buren County
Warren City	Warren City in Macomb County
Washtenaw County, Balance of	Washtenaw County less Ann Arbor City
Waterford Township	Waterford Township in Oakland County
Wayne County, Balance of	Wayne County less Dearborn City, Dearborn Heights City, Detroit City, Livonia City, Redford Township, Taylor City, Westland City
Westland City	Westland City in Wayne County
Wexford County	Wexford County

Source: Michigan Employment Security Commission — Bureau of Research and Statistics

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